

News Release

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FSA ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO FEED THE POOR

WASHINGTON, May 28, 1998 -- The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will mount a large-scale volunteer project to recover unused or unharvested food to feed the poor. Keith Kelly, FSA's Administrator, today announced the initiative in support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Recovery to Help the Hungry Program.

The Food Recovery Program works to recover or glean food that otherwise would go unused or go to waste. The goal is to increase the amount of food recovered by 33 percent and feed an additional 450,000 Americans daily by the year 2000.

As FSA's contribution, the Agency plans to implement at least one field gleaning project in each of at least 19 States this summer, and have projects in every State by the year 2000. FSA also seeks to help establish at least five new farmers markets this year, and set up new food recovery projects in at least 50 existing farmers markets.

FSA will coordinate the efforts and recruit members of local communities to participate. Gleaning efforts will include working with food producers, processors, and distributors to recover food that would otherwise be discarded or left unharvested. Employees will also seek volunteer help in transporting the food to recovery and distribution centers.

"Our employees are excited about this chance to contribute something to their communities," said Kelly, "And I'm excited too. I'm glad to provide this opportunity and I encourage people outside the Agency to participate. This is an outstanding chance to make a positive difference in the lives of the less fortunate."

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NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases and media advisories are available on the World Wide Web at FSA's Home Page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>